

In the claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A substantially pure nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a CAK1 polypeptide at least 75% identical to ~~an amino acid sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: No. 14~~, which CAK1 polypeptide binds a cyclin-dependent kinase and has a serine/threonine kinase activity.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein the kinase activity of the CAK1 polypeptide activates a *Candida* cyclin dependent kinase.

18. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein ~~the phosphatase activity of~~ the CAK1 polypeptide phosphorylates *Candida* cyclin dependent kinases (cdks).

19. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 14, which nucleic acid further comprises a transcriptional regulatory sequence operably linked to said nucleotide sequence so as to render said nucleotide sequence suitable for use as an expression vector.

20. (Previously Presented) An expression vector, capable of replicating in at least one of a prokaryotic cell and eukaryotic cell, comprising the nucleic acid of claim 14.

21. (Previously Presented) A host cell transfected with the expression vector of claim 20.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a recombinant *Candida* CAK1 protein comprising culturing the cell of claim 21 in a cell culture medium to express said CAK1 protein and isolating said CAK1 protein from said cell culture.

23-36. (Cancelled)

37. **(Currently Amended)** A substantially pure nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions of 6.0 x SSC at 45 °C followed by a wash step of 2.0 x SSC at 50 °C to the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: Nø: 13, and encodes a polypeptide that binds a cyclin-dependent kinase and has a serine/threonine kinase activity.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleic acid of claim 37, which nucleic acid encodes a *CAK1* polypeptide at least 75% identical to ~~an amino acid sequence represented in~~ SEQ ID NO: Nø: 14.

39-40. **(Cancelled)**

41. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein the CAK1 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence identical to SEQ ID NO: Nø: 14.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein the CAK1 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: Nø: 14.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein the CAK1 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: Nø: 14.

44. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein the CAK1 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO: Nø: 14.

45. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: Nø: 13.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the kinase activity of the polypeptide activates a *Candida* cyclin-dependent kinase.

47. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the ~~phosphatase activity of~~ the polypeptide phosphorylates a *Candida* cyclin-dependent kinase (cdk).